

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1976 - 1977

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28 June 1976

DOCUMENT 191/76

ORAL QUESTION (0-28/76)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Mr KOFOED

on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group  
to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Provisional results of the United Nations  
Conference on the Law of the Sea

The last meeting of the United Nations Conference on the law of the Sea ended without agreement on several important points, notably the establishment of an International Authority for the seabed, passage rights through straits, exploitation of ocean mineral resources, etc. Moreover, at the Conference the Community Member States proved unable to adopt a common position on many vital issues, namely the problems raised by pollution and the exploitation of the seabed.

For a Community policy on fishing, it is essential for the Nine Community Member States to reach, before the Conference resumes this autumn, agreement on the establishment of 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zones in the whole Community.

The Council is accordingly asked:

1. What is the situation regarding the ongoing negotiations between the Member States, and what are the chances of arriving at a common position on the abovementioned problems?
2. What does it think of the provisional results of the Conference on the Law of the Sea, and what, in its view, are the chances of a positive outcome at the next session?
3. Is it prepared to make a more detailed statement on the relationships between a new Community fisheries policy and the adoption of the new convention on the law of the sea which will doubtless be drawn up by the end of 1976?
4. What in its view would be the consequences of failure in the negotiations on the Community fisheries policy if the Conference on the Law of the Sea were to adopt a new general regulation establishing 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zones?